

vet college bill which was really introduced two years ago as LB 245. LB 245 is encased in the current language of LB 333 or 533 and basically I don't know whether you follow the tradition or not of what has taken place but LB 533 amends the original intent as far as how the Legislature formed its compact or formed its compromise, if I may say, formed its agreement about what we are intending to do relative to the vet college. If you take a look at that language, there were three provisions there, three major provisions that had to be complied with, the federal commitment, contracts from two or more states, and a private commitment. All at once our debate today is hovering around the question of, well, we have got to have a federal commitment in order to get an out of state commitment so we have got to have a Nebraska financial commitment in order to get those contracts from out of state. We are in a scenario that is sort of like which came first, the chicken or the egg. I would like to remind this body that all three of those components were to be in one basket of eggs, not one predicated on the other, but all three of them. That was the agreement behind LB 245 before we moved ahead. LB 533 is a departure. It breaks the compact. It breaks the intent of this Legislature and that is why I stand in opposition to advancing LB 533. We are not sure of our federal commitment. We are certainly not sure when the President of the United States originally said that the vet college should not be funded by the federal government and Congress for awhile reneged in giving a commitment, and if it wasn't for the hard work of the Nebraska delegation, we wouldn't have got the \$100,000 plus. But worst of all, we don't know what the vet college is going to cost in a fiscal sense. We are still predicating the expense of the vet college based upon that which was embossed in LB 245 which was to be around \$30 million. But a couple of years have gone by now, two or three, so to speak, and we have had double digit inflation over those three years. Now here we are going to fund a vet college that we have no adequate appraisal of what its costs are going to be today, none whatsoever. We know a little bit about what it is going to cost to staff it but we don't know what it is going to cost precisely to build it. Certainly it is not going to be the \$30 million figure. It may be closer to forty or fifty million. We need to have up-to-date projections of precisely what this facility is going to cost the State of Nebraska, yes, even those who purport to sign out of state contracts to make this a regional vet college and even the federal government needs to know it in order to finance its share of the college. I would like to remark or offer some remarks today. First of all, I would like to compliment the body. I think we